Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Withdrawn) A network trading system which is equipped with a management server and which effects network trading, by way of a network, among members having been registered in advance, the system comprising:

determination means which, when a member accesses the management server, receives biometric information about the member by way of the network and determines, through use of the received biometric information, whether or not the member is an authorized member.

2.   (Withdrawn) The network trading system according to claim 1, wherein the management server comprises

members-only WWW means for allowing the member to browse a members-only WEB page when the determination means has determined the member to be an authorized member.

3.   (Withdrawn) The network trading system according to claim 1, wherein the biometric information is handwritten signature data pertaining to the member.

4.   (Withdrawn) A method of effecting, by way of a network, network trading among members having been registered in advance, wherein registration of a member involves

a temporary registration step in which a person who desires to register himself as a member sends information about himself, including at least his postal address, to the management server by way of the network;

a delivery step in which the management server delivers means for inputting biometric information to the person who desires registration, on the basis of the information about the person;

a registration step in which the person who desires to register himself as a member sends his biometric information to the management server, by way of the Internet and through use of the delivered means to be used for entering biometric information; and

a member registration step in which the person who desires to register himself as a member is registered as a member as a result of the management server storing the biometric information that has been transmitted.

5.   (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 4, wherein the biometric information corresponds to handwritten signature data pertaining to the member.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method of effecting network trading among predetermined members through use of a management server having an electronic bulletin board function, the method comprising:

____   a member registration step in which a person who desires to register as a member is registered as a member as a result of the management server storing the biometric information for the person;

an invitation transmission step of sending to the management server by way of a network an intangible or tangible asset for which a member requester desires to invite applications;

an invitation posting step of posting on an electronic bulletin board the invitation that has been transmitted;

an invitation browsing step in which other members providers browse the invitation of applications posted on the electronic bulletin board by means of accessing the management server by way of the network;

an application transmission step in which the ~~members~~ providers send information about their intangible or tangible assets to the management server by way of the network, in response to the invitation of applications posted on the electronic bulletin board;

an application storage step in which the management server stores the applications that have been transmitted;

an application browsing step in which the ~~member~~ requester accesses the management server by way of the network, thereby browsing the stored applications; and

an application selection transmission step in which the ~~member~~ requester selects a desired application from the applications having been browsed and sends the result of selection to the management server by way of the network, wherein

the management server identifies the ~~member~~ requester who has invited applications and the ~~members~~ providers who have filed applications as authorized members when they access the management server and allows them to access the management server only when ~~they~~ providers are identified as authorized members by use of the biometric information that corresponds to a handwritten signature pertaining to the members stored by using a handwritten data input pad and a pen.

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Original) The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the invitation posting step further includes:

a public-order-and-standards-of-decency step of inspecting whether or not the intangible asset for which applications are invited violates public order and standards of decency; and

a first posting refusal step of refusing posting of the invitation on the electronic bulletin board when the intangible asset has been determined to violate public order and standards of decency in the public-order-and-standards-of-decency step.

9.　(Original)　The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the invitation posting step further includes:

a public-order-and-standards-of-decency step of inspecting whether or not an invitation of applications for an intangible asset analogous to an intangible asset for which invitation of applications is desired has already been posted on the electronic bulletin board; and

a second posting refusal step of refusing posting of the invitation on the electronic bulletin board when an invitation of applications for an analogous intangible asset is determined to have already been posted on the electronic bulletin board.

10.　(Original)　The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein, in the application browsing step, the number of times other members have browsed details of the invitation of applications for the intangible or tangible asset is displayed for the other members.

11.　(Original)　The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein, in the application browsing step, the number of applications which have been filed thus far for the invitation is displayed for the other members.

12.　(Original)　The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein, in the application selection transmission step, the member can select one application or two or more applications.

13.　(Original)　The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein, in the application selection transmission step, the member can invite an additional application for an intangible asset which represents an improvement over the intangible asset for which the selected application has been filed, in connection with a person who has filed the application selected by the member.

14.   (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of effecting network trading among predetermined members through use of a management server having an electronic bulletin board function, the method comprising:

a sale transmission step of sending an intangible or tangible asset for which a member desires to launch sale to the management server by way of a network;

a sale posting step of posting on an electronic bulletin board the sale that has been transmitted;

a sale browsing step in which other members browse the sale posted on the electronic bulletin board by means of accessing the management server by way of the network;

an adoption transmission step in which the members send, to the management server by way of the network, messages reporting adoption of the intangible or tangible asset in response to the sale posted on the electronic bulletin board;

an adoption storage step in which the management server stores the messages that state an intention of adoption and have been transmitted;

an adoption browsing step in which the member accesses the management server by way of the network, thereby browsing the stored messages; and

an adoption selection transmission step in which the member selects a desired offer from the messages which have been browsed and statestates the intention of adoption and sends the result of selection to the management server by way of the network, wherein

the management server identifies the member who has launched sale of his idea and the members who have offered adoption as authorized members when they access the management server, and allows them to access the management server only when they have been identified as authorized members.

15.   (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 14, wherein the biometric information corresponds to handwritten signature data pertaining to the members.

16. (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 14, wherein the sale posting step further includes:

a public-order-and-standards-of-decency step of inspecting whether or not the intangible asset for which launch of sale is desired violates public order and standards of decency; and

a first posting refusal step of refusing posting of the sale on the electronic bulletin board when the intangible asset has been determined to violate public order and standards of decency in the public-order-and-standards-of-decency step.

17. (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 14, wherein, in the sale browsing step, the number of times other members have browsed details of the intangible or tangible asset for which sale has been launched is displayed for the other members.

18. (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 14, wherein, in the sale browsing step, the number of adoptions which have been offered until now is displayed for the other members.

19. (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 14, wherein, in the adoption selection step, the member can select one offer or two or more offers.

20. (Previously Presented) The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the intangible asset corresponds to knowledge.

21. (Previously Presented) The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the intangible asset corresponds to a proposal or an idea.

22. (Previously Presented) The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the intangible asset corresponds to know-how.

23. (Previously Presented) The network trading method according to claim 6, wherein the intangible asset corresponds to intellectual property.

24. (Withdrawn) The network trading method according to claim 6, further comprising a trading result disclosure step of disclosing at least details of an intangible or tangible asset for which a contract has been concluded and a payment to the general public as well as to members when network trading of the intangible or tangible asset has been established.

25. (Withdrawn) A management server used in a network trading system for effecting network trading among predetermined members, the server comprising:

general WWW means for providing a WEB page browsable by the general public as well as by members; and

members-only WWW means for providing a WEB page browsable by members only.

26. (Withdrawn) The management server according to claim 25, further comprising personal authentication means for inspecting biometric information that has been transmitted by way of a network and identifying whether or not a person who has sent the information is an authorized member; wherein the members-only WWW means allows browsing by only a person who has been determined to be an authorized member by the personal authentication means.

27. (Withdrawn) The management server according to claim 25, wherein the biometric information corresponds to handwritten signature data.